

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, For more than 123 years, the American Red Cross has honored its mission: to provide relief to victims of disaster while helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Last year alone, more than 1,500 silent heroes helped our neighbors by supporting the efforts of the Red Cross in South Dakota and over 13,000 more took the time to learn lifesaving skills such as first aid, CPR, and defibrillator use; and,

Whereas, Last year, more than 146 families who survived disasters – from fires that affected a single structure to wind storms and tornadoes – received help from the South Dakota Red Cross. South Dakota Red Cross Chapters assisted hundreds of active duty, Reserve, and National Guard members and their families with accessing Red Cross services and connecting loved ones separated by war and conflict; and,

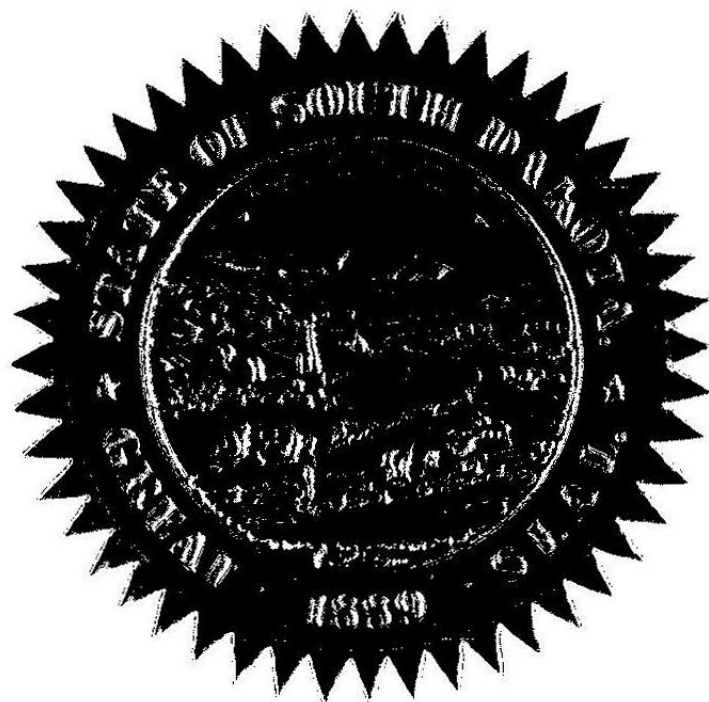
Whereas, Today, in a collaborative effort with the federal, state, and local government members of the emergency planning agencies, the South Dakota Chapters of the Red Cross and their partners are better able to serve communities. Through its Together We Prepare initiative, the Red Cross is leading the way in empowering individuals and families to protect themselves. With five simple steps – 1) make a plan, 2) build a kit, 3) get trained, 4) volunteer, and 5) give blood – the South Dakota Chapters of the Red Cross and the citizens of South Dakota will help make their communities safer; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper that, as Governor of the state of South Dakota, I applaud and recognize the selfless dedication of generations of Red Cross staff and volunteers:

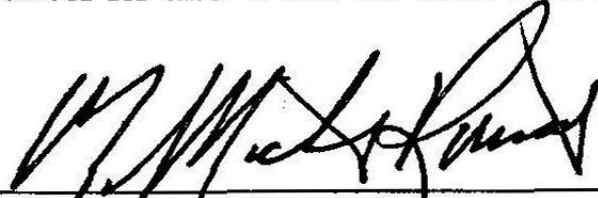
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 2005 as

RED CROSS MONTH

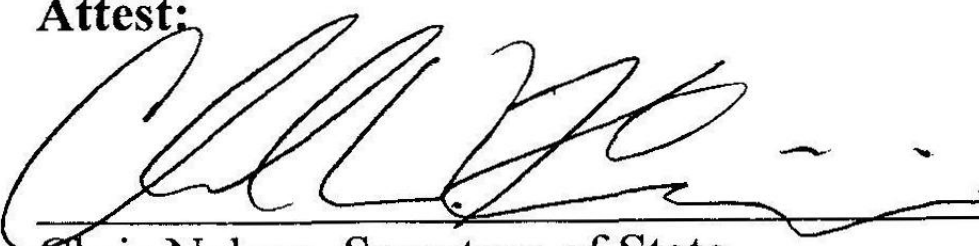
in South Dakota, and call upon our citizens to become partners in preparedness with their local Red Cross Chapters and to become active participants in advancing its noble mission.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State
by Deputy